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U.S. Bureau of Animal Industry.
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BREEDING STAGES AND PULLORUM CONTROL CLASSES
IN THE NATIONAL POULTRY IMPROVEMENT PLAN
545

1. Breeding Stages:

A West Virginia U.S. Approved flock is a flock in which all the females are carefully selected for egg production, vigor and size and are mated to males that have been selected for constitutional vigor and type. Both males and females must be tested for pullorum, and all selection must be done by a qualified state inspector. All approved birds are leg banded.

A West Virginia U.S. Certified flock is a flock in which all the females are carefully selected for egg production, vigor and size but are mated with U.S. Record of Performance males. This guarantees that on the males side, at least, both parents have a minimum of 200 egg breeding and that such eggs averaged at least two ounces each in weight. Both males and females must be tested for pullorum and carry the tested leg band. In addition all males must carry the identifying wing band number, and an R.O.P. leg band number.

West Virginia U.S. Record of Performance flock is a flock in which the pullets have laid 200 or more eggs during the first laying year, which means 365 days from the time of laying the first egg in a trap nest. The eggs of each pullet have an average weight of 24 ounces per dozen. The body weight of each pullet must be at least the qualifying weight for the breed. The pullets must be free from disqualifications and must be reasonably good representatives of the breed, as described in the American Standard of Perfection.

The males must be from U.S.R.O.P. chicks, inspected not earlier than six months of age, and must be good representatives of the breed as described in the American Standard of Perfection. These males are selected for strong constitutional vigor and are free from standard disqualifications.

(over)

2. Pullorum Control and Eradication Classes:

West Virginia U.S. Pullorum Controlled flocks have met the following requirements: (a) All chickens on the farm over five months of age have been officially blood tested for pullorum disease by the standard tube agglutination method and contain fewer than two per cent reactors, the test being made within 12 months preceding the date of sale of hatching eggs or baby chicks from these flocks. (b) All indicated carriers of pullorum disease must have been removed from the premises and slaughtered. (c) The remaining birds are properly leg banded.

West Virginia U.S. Pullorum Passed flocks have met the following requirements: (a) All birds on the farm over five months of age have been officially tested for pullorum disease by the standard tube agglutination method and contain no reactors on the last test, the test being made within 12 months preceding the date of sale of hatching eggs or baby chicks from these flocks. (b) All birds are properly leg banded.

West Virginia U.S. Pullorum Clean flocks are flocks which have met the following requirements: (a) All birds on the farm over five months of age have been officially tested for pullorum disease by the standard tube agglutination method, the test being made within 12 months preceding the date of sale of hatching eggs from these flocks, and contain no reactors on the first test (providing the stock originally came from a "Pullorum Passed" or "Pullorum Clean" Hatchery) — or no reactors on two consecutive tests of at least six months apart — or no reactors on three consecutive tests at least 30 days apart.

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